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HOMEMAKERS' CHAT

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U. S. DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF INFORMATION

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SUBJECT: "Strategy for the Battle Against Mildew"...Information from the home Economists of the United States Department of Agriculture.

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Several days of rain in the summertime mark for the homemaker, the beginning of an all-out fight with mildew. And following one of the established rules of warfare, the household specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture tell us that a strong offense is our best defense against the mold.

The offense they suggest includes keeping closets, dresser drawers, any place where mildew is likely to grow as clean, dry and well-aired as possible.

An electric light left burning in a closet will help dry out the atmosphere there. Also, in a small space, an open jar of calcium chloride will absorb the moisture. You can get the calcium chloride from hardware stores. You'll find, however, that as the calcium chloride absorbs moisture, it will turn from a solid into a liquid...and will have to be changed frequently.

Musty odors in basements or cellars will usually disappear if the house is well-heated and dried. Chloride of lime, however, is a good deodorant and disinfectant. Chloride of lime, you know, is just plain bleaching powder. You can sprinkle the chloride of lime over your basement floor and let it stay until all traces of mustiness disappear. Then sweep it up and scrub the floor.

As for the floors and woodwork in your house..you can discourage mildew growth in them by wiping them with a damp cloth dipped in water and a little kerosene.

Carrying out these offense tactics may mean a little extra work to the homemaker who's already overloaded with things to do. But they'll also mean a sweeter, fresher house...with mildew temporarily stayed off. And that's reason enough for a little extra effort in any homemaker's language.

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